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JAPAN PM TO RESIGN FOLLOWING PARTY'S DEFEAT IN JULY ELECTION

Shigeru Ishiba's decision to quit follows growing calls within his conservative Liberal Democratic Party to take responsibility for the historic defeat

LDP WAS EYEING EARLY LEADERSHIP ELECTION

The resignation came one day before Ishiba's party was to decide whether to hold an early leadership election, which would have amounted to a virtual no-confidence motion against him if approved. In July, Ishiba's ruling coalition failed to secure a majority in the 248-seat upper house in a crucial parliamentary election, weakening his government's stability | P9

ISHIBA: WAS WAITING TO GET U.S. TARIFFS CUT

- Ishiba told a news conference on Sunday that he had intended for some time to take responsibility for his party's election loss, but was first determined to make progress in tariff negotiations with the US
- He said the moment had arrived after Donald Trump lowered tariffs on Japanese cars and other products to 15 per cent from 25 per cent rate

68-yr-old

ISHIBA, A SELF-CONFESSED DEFENCE GEEK, WAS AT THE HELM FOR LESS THAN A YEAR

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

INDIA WIN ASIA CUP, SEAL WC SPOT

2026 WORLD CUP BOUND

As hosts of the previous two World Cups in 2018 and 2023, India were automatic qualifiers. This time, though, they had to win this or they would have found themselves playing a tricky qualifying tournament next year. They can now plan and attack that tournament with 11 months to go

An efficient Indian hockey team beat South Korea 4-1 to win their fourth Asia Cup.

INDIA GO AERIAL TO FIND SOME JOY

Both China and South Korea man-marked the Indian players. To reduce that effect, India went long to bypass midfield and transfer pressure. This ploy worked a treat

FORWARDS COME TO THE PARTY

Earlier in the tournament, the forward line was generally profligate. They were snatching at chances as composure was a worry. They addressed those issues as the likes of Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh and Abishek sounded the board after some teething troubles

Last push by NDA, INDIA bloc ahead of V-P election

Both sides strive to shore up their numbers, eye cross-voting gains

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR & PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

WITH just a day left for Tuesday's Vice-Presidential election, both the ruling BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led opposition have intensified efforts to boost their numbers.

The NDA, which was the first to announce candidate for the V-P poll on August 17, has since been engaging with its MPs to ensure victory for its nominee, C P Radhakrishnan.

On his part, the Radhakrishnan has concluded his campaign by meeting all MPs of the alliance, travelling across states and in Delhi.

Although the final result is a foregone conclusion in favour of NDA's nominee, all eyes are on fence sitters and neutral parties, including Naveen Patnaik's Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and K Chandrashekhar Rao's Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), which are yet to show their hands. The BJD has seven Rajya Sabha MPs while the BRS has four.

Congress sources told this paper that they don't expect any surprises in Tuesday's voting, as most southern parties appear to be inclined towards supporting the NDA nominee. Sources said the Opposition reached out to YSRCP chief Jagan Mohan Reddy for support but he conveyed his unwillingness to back the opposition candidate, B Sudershan Reddy. YSRCP has 7 MPs in the Rajya Sabha and 5 in Lok Sabha.

While BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao is yet to disclose his preference for a candidate, party insiders believe the recent turmoil within the BRS is likely to tilt the scales in favour of the NDA nominee.

The BRS, BJD, and YSRCP have supported the Narendra Modi government in passing crucial bills in Parliament in the past, but opposition strategists are not ruling out additional votes from cross-voting by some MPs from these parties. "Though we do not expect major surprises, we expect to improve our performance this time. We have reached out to the three independent MPs as well," said a senior opposition leader, who did not wish to be named.

C P Radhakrishnan

B Sudershan Reddy

As the principal partner of the NDA and the party responsible for nominating the consensus candidate for Vice President, the BJP is not taking any chances and has asked all its MPs to reach Delhi by Monday ahead of Tuesday's election. It has also begun training the MPs to ensure they cast their votes correctly and avoid any technical errors. A senior BJP leader said first-time MPs are especially given thorough training in the voting process and taught how to handle the secret ballot papers.

Oppn MPs to practise with 'mock poll'

PREETHA NAIR @ New Delhi

OPPOSITION MPs would be briefed on Monday on the procedure to vote in the September 9 Vice-Presidential polls, sources in the INDIA bloc said on Sunday.

They said a 'mock poll' would be conducted for the MPs in the Central Hall of the old Parliament House at around 2:30 PM on Monday after the briefing on the procedure to vote in the V-P poll.

To ensure smooth voting and to avoid invalid votes, the Congress has also appointed coordinators to conduct training sessions with its allies.

Though Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was to host a dinner for the opposition MPs on Monday evening, it has been cancelled in view of the flood situation in the country.

Meanwhile, in a fervent appeal to MPs, joint opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy on Sunday exhorted them not to let party loyalty guide their choice and asserted that by entrusting him with this office, they would be ensuring that the Rajya Sabha stands as a true temple of democracy.

In a 12-minute-long video message, Reddy told the MPs that he seeks their support not for himself but for the "values that define us as a sovereign democratic republic".

NMC SIDELINED?

INTEGRATED BAMS, MBBS COURSE TO BE OF OVER 5 YRS

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

THE Centre's proposed new integrated MBBS-BAMS (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery) course at JIPMER in Puducherry will be a degree course spanning more than five years, with a one-year internship leading to the dual degrees, an RTI reply has revealed.

The proposal, which has been prepared by Auroville Foundation and announced with great fanfare by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare and AYUSH, Prataprao Jadhav, on May 27, also states that the syllabus for phase 1 is ready and is prepared on the competency-based curriculum (CBME) proposed by the National Medical Council (NMC), a statutory body that regulates medical education, medical professionals, institutes, and research.

However, key regulatory bodies including the National Medical Commission (NMC) and the National Commission for Indian System of Medicine (NCISM), which decide on new courses and syllabi, were not involved in the proposal, as per RTI documents.

This paper was the first to report on the Centre's push for the integrated medical course that would combine MBBS and BAMS.

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

Following the report, the Indian Medical Association (IMA), representing over four lakh medical practitioners, strongly condemned the move to "mix different systems of medicine unscientifically" and demanded that the government withdraw the "regressive proposal" in public interest.

Despite the announcement by the Union Minister, JIPMER refused to share any details of the course after Kerala-based activist Dr K V Babu filed an RTI. Moreover, Auroville secretary Dr Jayanti S Ravi, who acknowledged in her January 25 letter that discussions were held over the last several months with Dr V K Paul, Member, NITI Aayog; Dr Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, AYUSH, and others, had also failed to share comments on the integrated course with the Union Health Ministry despite repeated reminders.

Speaking to this paper, Dr Babu said: "There is no provision under any law in India to award MBBS and BAMS degrees together after any course. From files availed using RTI, it seems the government is supporting the proposal to award a dual degree of MBBS and BAMS by the Auroville Foundation in association with JIPMER and some satellite centres... There is nothing to suggest that the regulatory body in this case, NMC, had ever discussed it with other regulatory bodies, which is mandatory under the statute."

CASTE CENSUS

Veerashaiva-Lingayats must enrol as 'others', not Hindus: Mahasabha

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha on Sunday asked its community members, Veerashaiva-Lingayats, to mark the religion under the "others" column in the Socio Educational Survey-2025 (caste census) to be conducted by the Karnataka State Backward Classes Commission from September 22.

The religion column in the survey will have options like the Hindu, Islam, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Parsi, Atheist, Not Known, Refused to Disclose and Others (specify). Marking their religion under the "others" column will revive the community's demand for a separate religion status.

"There is no relationship between Sanatana Hindu and Veerashaiva-Lingayat religions. Members of our community should enrol as a separate religion which the Mahasabha has been proposing for a long time. In the sub-caste column, you can mention accordingly," said Mahasabha General Secretary Eshwar Khandre, who is also forest minister, at a joint press conference.

"Everyone should participate in the Social and Educational Survey and write 'Veerashaiva Lingayat' in the 'Others' column under religion and as 'Lingayat' or 'Veerashaiva' or 'Veerashaiva Lingayat' in the caste column. They should confirm and write the code number of the sub-caste to which they belong in the sub-caste column," he said.

He suggested that the community members should clearly provide the information related to their family to the enumerators. P4

Govt notifies nomination of 4 MLCs

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

IT's official. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has given his assent to the nomination of four persons to the Karnataka Legislative Council and the state government notified it in the gazette on Sunday.

Deputy Chairperson of NRI Forum, government of Karnataka, Dr Arathi Krishna, educationist, labour leader and vice-chairman of Dr Ambedkar Foundation from the AICC SC Cell FH Jakkappanavar, senior assistant editor with The New Indian Express Shivakumar K and KPCC media cell chairman and former JDS MLC Ramesh Babu are the nominated. They are likely to be sworn-in after Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti gives his date. Ramesh Babu will get a ten-month term that will last till July 21, 2026, as the term of his predecessor CP Yogeeshwar, who is now Channapatna MLA, ends then. The other three will get a full tenure of six years.

Newly nominated members to the Karnataka Legislative Council (from top), Shivakumar K, Dr Arathi Krishna, FH Jakkappanavar, and Ramesh Babu

EXPRESS READ

The blood moon visible during the lunar eclipse in Bengaluru on Sunday | SAGAR KOPARKAR, A MALLESWARAM RESIDENT

2nd phase of sanctions on Russia soon: Trump

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Sunday said he would impose the 'second phase' of sanctions against Russia. The comment came shortly after US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the Russian economy would collapse if US and EU slap more secondary sanctions on countries that buy crude oil from Moscow

TRAILBLAZERS

Devi Awards honour Odisha's fab fourteen

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhubaneswar

SPEAKER of Odisha Legislative Assembly Surama Padhy on Sunday called upon women to step forward and make their mark in every sphere of the society. Presenting the 33rd Devi Awards, instituted by *The New Indian Express*, Padhy said women are the cornerstone of the society. "A society truly advances when its women are respected and given opportunities," she said.

She said real development of women is possible through their participation and inclusion in education, health, employment, social security and politics. When women become self-reliant and experience economic growth, it lends speed and strength to development and progress of the entire country, starting from individual families.

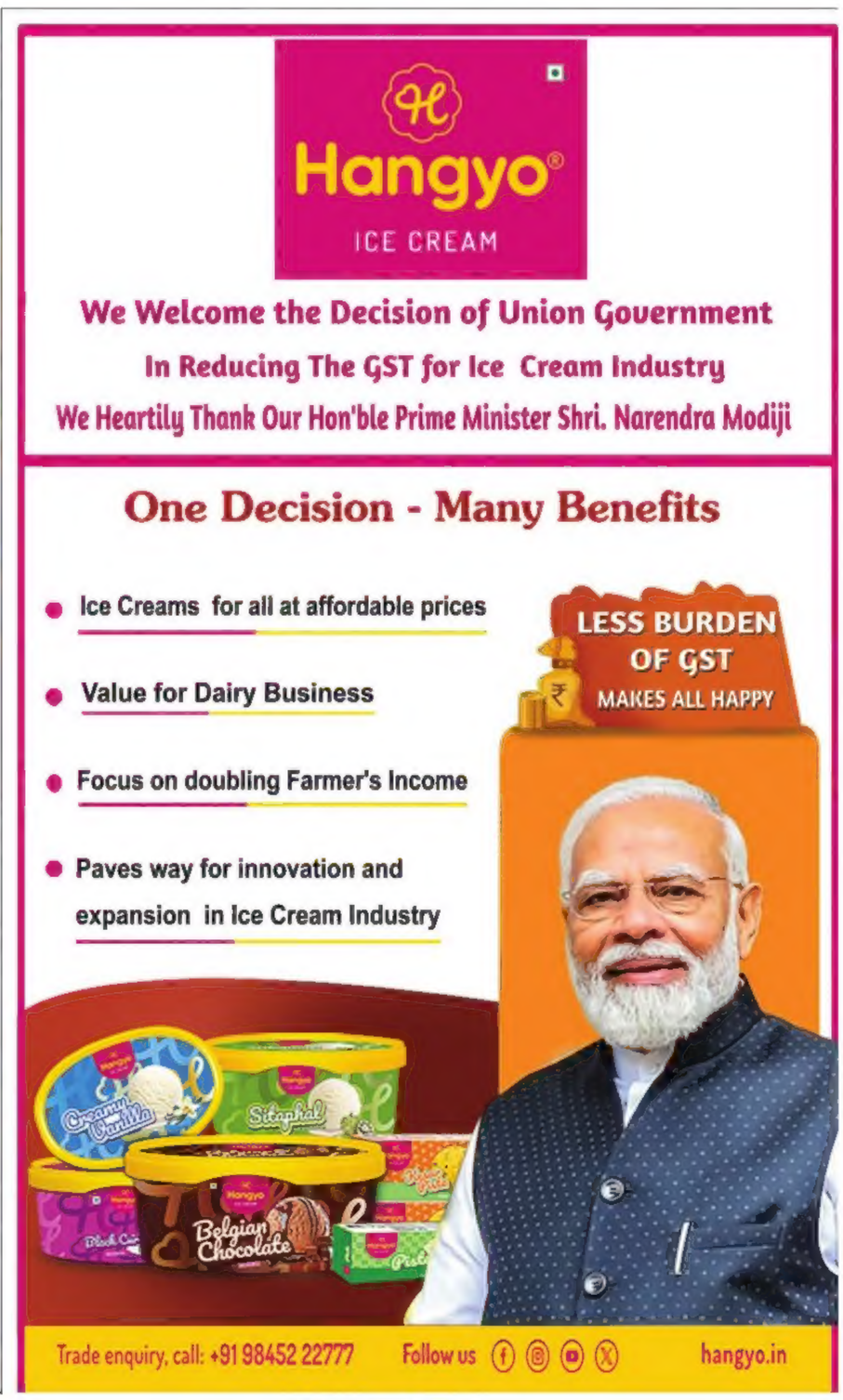
"I hope women will step forward and make their mark in every sphere of society," Padhy added.

The fourth edition of Devi Awards in Odisha honoured 14 trailblazing women from a cross-section of the society, who have stood out through their achievements, excellence and impact. They include conservation architect Vijaya Amujure, the first girl from the primitive Didayi community to crack NEET Champa Raseda, disability activist Gargi Bhattacharya, farmer and preserver of Shree Anna (millets) Raimati Ghuria, ENT specialist Dr Smruti Swain, globally-acclaimed Odissi exponent Sujata Mohapatra, entrepreneur and innovator Minushri Madhumita, scientist Jyotirmayee Dash, social activist Nibedita Lenka, chef Madhusmita Soren, lacquer doll craftsperson Kanakalata Das, the valorous forest guard who captured 17 poachers Khirabdi Seth, award winning Ollywood actor and philanthropist Archita Sahu and Odisha's sprint queen Srabani Nanda.

Editorial director of TNIE Prabhu Chawla, TNIE Group CEO Lakshmi Menon and resident editor, TNIE Odisha, Siba Mohanty were among those present.

Devi awardees seen alongside Odisha Speaker Surama Padhy, TNIE CEO Lakshmi Menon, Editorial Director Prabhu Chawla, and Resident Editor for Odisha Siba Mohanty at the award ceremony in Bhubaneswar on Sunday | DEBADATTA MALLICK

ODISHA LIT FEST CONCLUDES WITH DIVERSITY OF IDEAS AND DISCUSSIONS | P5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We Heartily Thank Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri. Narendra Modiji
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